United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/52

Meeting of States Parties

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Letter dated 5 May 2000 from the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf addressed to the President of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties

1. In a letter dated 3 June 1999 (SPLOS/49) from the President of the Ninth Meeting of States Parties addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) concerning the issue of financing the participation of members from the developing countries in the work of CLCS, the Commission was informed that in order to formulate any recommendations on this issue, the Meeting needs detailed factual information in writing from the Commission regarding actual needs and financial estimates for each session, and that without that information it would be difficult to take any action.

2. The Secretariat provided the Commission with the estimated costs for the establishment of a trust fund (CLCS/16). The Commission took note of these estimates and requested that the relevant information be submitted to the President of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties.

3. In the period 1997-1999 the Commission held biannual sessions each year: one session lasting two weeks and one lasting one week. In the year 2000, the Commission convened a week-long session (1-5 May), and intends to meet the second time for one week from 28 August to 1 September. The estimated cost of air travel of members of the Commission from developing countries for two sessions amounts to US$ 70,000. The cost of daily subsistence allowance (DSA) (US$ 275 per day) for two sessions, two weeks in total, amounts to US$ 50,050. The estimated cost of both travel and DSA combined for two one-week sessions per year amounts to a total of US$ 120,050.

4. The Commission noted from the same letter that several delegations at the Ninth Meeting had expressed their wish to be apprised of the activities of the Commission. The President of the Meeting suggested that the Chairman consider bringing his statements on the work of the Commission to the attention of the Meetings of States Parties. I would like to inform you that these statements will continue to be available to the delegations at the Meeting of States Parties, as are other documents of relevance to the work of the Meeting.

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5. I would also like to request that you bring to the attention of the States Parties to the Convention that on 1 May 2000, the Commission held its first Open Meeting. One of its aims was to raise the awareness of States of the provisions of article 76 of the Convention relating to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, bearing in mind the requirement of the Convention to submit particulars of such limits to the Commission within 10 years from the entry into force of the Convention for that State. The agenda of the Open Meeting (CLCS/20) and the introductory statement of the Chairman of the Commission made at the Open Meeting (CLCS/INF/2) are available.

6. The Commission is currently ready to receive submissions from coastal States. In order to facilitate the preparation of those submissions, I would like to call the attention of States to the basic documents of the Commission related to those preparations, namely the Rules of Procedure (CLCS/3/Rev.2), Modus Operandi (CLCS/L.3) and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines (CLCS/11, CLCS/11 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1), which will be available to participants during the Meeting of States Parties.

(*Signed*) Yuri B. **Kazmin**
Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf